

REMARKS

In response to the above Office Action, claims 7-15 have been cancelled and rewritten as new claims 24-28.

Claim 24 is a combination of claims 7, 8, and 11; claim 25 of 7, 8, and 12; claim 26 of 7, 8, and 13; claim 27 of 7, 8, and 14 and claim 28 is former claim 15 now dependent on any one of claims 24, 25, 26, or 27. Since the Examiner indicated claims 11, 12, 13, and 14 contained allowable subject matter, it is believed claims 24-28 should now be in condition for allowance.

Claims 16-19 have also been cancelled and rewritten as new claims 29-34 dependent from any one of claims 24-27. It is realized that former claims 16-19 were withdrawn. However, since all of these claims depend from claims 24-27 which are now allowable, it is believed they are entitled to be reinstated in the case under the rejoinder practice of M.P.E.P. §821.04. As previously noted, "when a product claim is found allowable, applicant may present claims directed to the process of making and/or using the patentable product." Since claims 29-34 are directed to processes for using the products of claims 24-27 and include all the limitations of claims 24-27, it is believed they are entitled to be rejoined in this case.

However, if the Examiner does not believe claims 29-34 are entitled to be rejoined in the case, applicants are prepared to cancel these claims to secure allowance of claims 24-28. In this regard, please call the undersigned.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 25, 2004

By: 

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